

"The results of the opening of the Tennessee River to navigation by the removal of the obstructions at what are known as Muscle Shoals, will have a more decided bearing on the transportation problem to the South than all the railroad companies or interstate commerce commission which the State or National Government could organize and empower in the most plenary manner; and will exceed any railway in their effect upon the public, because rate wars reduce the tariffs to ridiculous figures, but within a few weeks at the farthest come to an end, by mutual agreement of the lines that they cannot afford to hurt themselves for the purpose of hurting each other. The reduction of rates is one of vast importance